

## REMARKS

Claims 5, 20, 25, 29, 33 and 37 have been amended to make the language relating to the polished end face of the optical fiber more consistent throughout the claims. Claims 42-50 have been newly added. Support for these limitations can be found, e.g., page 10, line 12 through page 12, line 18; and in Figures 15-35. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of claims 5-11 and 20-50.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. The Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned attorney at 612.336.4617 with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE